

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A method for transmitting a data stream between a host controller and a peripheral device over an extended distance; said method comprising:
  - 5 a. feeding a first original, outgoing digital signal from a host controller to a local expander unit;
  - b. transmitting said outgoing digital signal as a outgoing transmission signal, over a signal distribution system;
  - c. receiving said outgoing transmission signal as a first original outgoing digital signal at a  
10 remote expander unit;
  - d. delivering said first original outgoing digital signal from said remote expander to at least one peripheral device;
  - e. receiving, at said remote expander, a reply digital signal from said at least one peripheral device;
  - 15 f. transmitting said reply digital signal as a reply transmission signal over said signal distribution system;
  - g. receiving said reply transmission signal as a reply digital signal at said local expander;
  - h. storing said reply digital signal as a stored reply digital signal until the receipt of a subsequent original, outgoing digital signal from said host controller, which subsequent  
20 signal is the same as, or similar to, said first original outgoing digital signal; and
  - i. forwarding said stored reply digital signal to said host controller in response to said subsequent original outgoing digital signal.
2. A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said data stream is a time relevant data stream.
- 25 3. A method as in claim 2 wherein said digital signals conform to the USB Specification and represent isochronous data.